

Questions to be answered in your groups

These are to help facilitate discussion, not just be fulfillments on a dotted line for your humble English teacher so he can put a check in the gradebook. ACTUALLY DISCUSS THE NOVEL WITH THESE AS A GUIDE ONLY!

Historical and Societal Context

1. Do you think Jay Gatsby represents the American Dream? What is Fitzgerald's view of the American Dream then (in the 1920s)?
2. Discuss the differences between West Egg and East Egg and why they are relevant to the novel. Discuss social class as it applies to the novel.

Fitzgerald

3. Fitzgerald wrote, "You don't write because you want to say something, you write because you have something to say." What did he have to say in *Gatsby*?
4. What makes this novel a masterpiece or a classic? Why has it maintained its place in American literature?

Symbolism

5. What does the green light represent? Why does it constantly resurface throughout the novel?
6. Discuss the eyes of Doctor T.J. Eckleberg (the billboard) that overlooks the "valley of ashes" in the novel? What might it represent? Why are the eyes faded?

Characters

7. Discuss Nick Carraway as an honest, non-judgmental narrator. Discuss his reliability as narrator. Does Nick's role as narrator make the story more believable?
8. What part of Gatsby's past is he trying to recapture? Does he succeed? Can the past be repeated as he says it can?
9. Do you agree with Nick's final assertion that Gatsby is "worth the whole damn bunch put together"? Why?
10. Why do you think that Daisy sobs into the "thick folds" of Gatsby's beautiful shirts?
11. Why does Daisy have a relationship with Gatsby when they re-enter each others' lives?